

Public Notice – Environmental Permit

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: To seek public comment on a draft permit from the Department of Environmental Quality that will allow excavation and filling of stream channels in Buchanan County, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: For 30 days, starting from the day after the notice is in the newspaper.

PERMIT NAME: Virginia Water Protection Permit issued by DEQ, under the authority of the State Water Control Board.

APPLICANT NAME, ADDRESS AND PERMIT NUMBER: Paramount Coal Company Virginia, LLC; 5703 Crutchfield Drive, Norton, VA 24273; VWP Permit #12-0993

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Paramount Coal Company Virginia, LLC has applied for a new Virginia Water Protection permit for the proposed Three Forks Surface Mine. The applicant proposes to conduct mining operations that will temporarily impact approximately 1,840 linear feet of stream channel. These stream channels are located in the Russell Fork watershed. A watershed is the land area drained by a river and its incoming streams. To compensate for the proposed impacts, the applicant will reestablish the impacted stream channels upon mine site reclamation and perform restoration activities on Three Forks. DEQ's preliminary decision is to approve the permit.

HOW TO COMMENT AND/OR REQUEST A PUBLIC HEARING: The Department of Environmental Quality accepts comments and requests for public hearing by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments and requests must be in writing and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Submittals must include the names, mailing addresses and telephone numbers of the commenter/requester and of all persons represented by the commenter/requester. A request for public hearing must also include: 1) The reason why a public hearing is requested. 2) A brief, informal statement regarding the nature and extent of the interest of the requester or of those represented by the requestor, including how and to what extent such interest would be directly and adversely affected by the permit. 3) Specific references, where possible, to terms and conditions of the permit with suggested revisions. A public hearing may be held, including another comment period, if public response is significant, based on individual requests for a public hearing, and there are substantial, disputed issues relevant to the permit.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: David Nishida; DEQ Southwest Regional Office; 355-A Deadmore Street, Abingdon, VA 24210; Phone: (276) 676-4800; E-mail: david.nishida@deq.virginia.gov; Fax: (276)676-4899. The public may review the draft permit and application at the DEQ office named above by appointment or may request copies of the documents from the contact person listed above.